



Minutes Nevada Homeland Security Commission Quarterly Meeting

ATTENDANCE

DATE	27 February 2006
TIME	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
LOCATION	401 S Carson St – Carson City 555 W Washington – Las Vegas
METHOD	Teleconference between sites
RECORDER	Denise Parsons

Committee Members	Present	Legislative & Ex-Officio Members, Staff and Others	Present
Dr. Dale Carrison, Chairman	X	Senator Dennis Nolan	X
Jerry Keller, Vice-Chairman		Assemblyman John Ocegüera	X
Maureen Peckman	X	Glade Myler, Attorney General's Office	X
Robert Hadfield	X	Frank Siracusa, Director, Division of Emergency Mgmt	X
Ellen Knowlton		Kamala Carmazzi, Deputy Director, DEM	X
Gonzalo Cordova	X	Dr. Bradford Lee, NV State Health Department	X
Robert Fisher		Heidi Sakelarios, Health Program Manager, Nevada State Health Division	X
Earl Greene		Dr. James P. O'Brien, Emergency & Homeland Security Management, Clark County	X
Jim Spinello	X	Giles Vanderhoof, Homeland Security Administrator	X
Rosemary Vassiliadis	X	Gwen Hadd, Homeland Security Administrators Office	X
Bill Welch	X	Valerie Sumner, Homeland Security Administrators Office	X
Paul Wagner	X	Larry Casey, Homeland Security Commission Staff	X
Dennis Balaam	X	Denise Parsons, Homeland Security Commission Staff	X
William Young	X		

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

At 9:00 am Chairman Carrison called the meeting to order. Larry Casey called the roll. 10 members were present, 4 were absent, and so a quorum was established.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Carrison made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2005 commission meeting. It was seconded. The minutes were approved.

3. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Carrison briefly mentioned that two of the Commissioners have retired. Chief Greene retired and his replacement will be Steve Smith. Ellen Knowlton has also retired and her replacement is unknown at this time. Dr. Carrison also stated that there will be a presentation regarding the funding program.

4. FY2006 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Frank Siracusa, Chief, Nevada Division of Emergency Management, thanked Dr. O'Brien for all his hard work during the application process.

Mr. Siracusa started off by providing a brief overview of the process and changes and evolution to the grant program.

- FFY99 – FFY05 standard process, we knew how much NV would receive. It was a pretty stable process.
- FFY06 - No longer individual applications – 1 state application only. Don't know the amount NV will be getting. Only that there is 0.75% of a nationwide base amount for each state (approx. \$6 million). UASI is 100% competitive.
- 3-2-06 is the cut-off date to submit the package to the Feds. NV will meet that commitment.
- 5-31-06 the Feds will notify us of the status and how much we will be receiving at that time. Dollars will then be associated with the justifications. The HS Commission will then be asked to evaluate and prioritize the justifications prior to grant award.

Ms. Carmazzi, Deputy Chief, Nevada Division of Emergency Management, concurred with Mr. Siracusa regarding Dr. O'Brien's and Mr. Spinello's help in providing massive support during this effort. Also, due to the State's partnership of Tribal Nations, Nevada is now considered a model.

Ms. Carmazzi stated that Dr. O'Brien provided a partnership between DEM & Clark County, with DEM being the facilitator.

Ms. Carmazzi provided a detailed look at the Grant Program Process:

- Process is in accordance with the National Preparedness Goal.
- DEM received training from the Feds in October 2005.
- Work Groups were established to facilitate information.
- 8 Priority Capabilities had to be addressed. (Ms. Carmazzi stated that everyone worked really hard)
- Work Groups Developed Initiatives

- Work Groups Developed Investment Justifications (she also stated that Clark County did not dominate the process since work groups consisted of LEPC members throughout the state)
- The program and capability review was aligned with the National Preparedness Goal.
- Enhancement Plan – serves us well to draw HSC funds.
- Given companion documents to help: National Planning Scenarios Universal Task List, and Target Capabilities List

Dr. O'Brien provided a brief overview of the process. He stated that the Program & Capability Review was driven by the assessment → program & capability Enhancement Plan.

He stated that the Program & Capability Review Guidebook was used as a roadmap for the process. He also stated that work groups were put together that conducted all activities.

- The capability review asked two questions -
What are the strengths? What are the weaknesses?
- Target List contains a definition for each capability + outcome.
- Program Review – Are we executing appropriate activities? Do we have coordination and cooperation?
- Program collection of organization resources to accomplish one goal or a set of supporting goals.
- Enhancement Plan (3-5 yr. blue print for multi-year, multi-disciplinary) consists of multi-year initiatives. Evaluate → Priorities → Develop Plan → Submit Plan.
- Formulated initiatives – statewide cross-jurisdictional project.
- Component of the Initiative Plan → Investment Justification (2 yr. performance period). NV selected 11 prioritized investments (29 initially submitted – applied 6 homeland security directed criteria to each and 10 submissions didn't meet) The remaining 19 were combined to form the 11 justifications that were selected.
- Total request is \$52 million – UASI - \$20 million and \$32 million for remainder of state.

Dr. O'Brien stated that the Commission will need to provide guidance and direction on how the funds will be distributed.

Ms. Carmazzi stated that priorities were established that will be reviewed over the next 3-5 yr. period. They will be going back to the work groups. The state will need to seek guidance from the work groups regarding prioritizing the list.

Bill Young asked, "Where did the Statewide Vulnerability Threat Assessment come into play?"

Dr. Carrison answered that the VA Team provided input from the various assessments.

Ms. Carmazzi stated that they have not tied any language from this document to the assessment.

Mr. Vanderhoof stated that everything being shown on the slides cannot be viewed up North.

Mr. Hadfield stated that he was impressed with the process.

Dr. O'Brien stated that a series of prioritizing methods was used so that everyone was given an opportunity to voice their concerns.

Dr. Carrison stated that from a Commission standpoint, it will be the commission that prioritizes the allocation of resources.

5. DISCUSSION ON CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Gonzalo Cordova, Protective Security Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, stated that he was speaking on this topic in response Mike McClary's comment regarding Nevada's lack of adequate critical infrastructure stated at the last LEPC meeting.

Mr. Cordova stated that he is in the process of providing critical pieces of infrastructure and that he is committed to assisting state agencies in critical infrastructure.

Dr. Carrison commended Bill Young on his efforts regarding Metro's attendance at a conference back in D.C.

Mr. Young stated that he certainly didn't make any friends while he was back there, and added that there will not be any reconsideration in adding Las Vegas back to the list in 2006. But, we should put in for continuation funding. He also stated that Metro actually has a person at DHS because Las Vegas is considered a high risk city. The infrastructure protection site is separate from other DHS – seems political factors are involved.

Mr. Young recommended that the state keep working at it, since the Feds haven't given a reason as to why NV was taken off the list.

Mr. Myler stated that he had a concern about due process and has talked about this with the DHS general counsel. He also stated that he will have to wait to pursue it from a legal standpoint, but will pursue it, if directed to do so.

Mr. Vanderhoof stated that there will be another meeting within three weeks. The Feds will not reconsider NV for 06 and left out tourist data. Their own document lists NV as the No. 7 top terrorist threat. However, he stated that the Feds will reconsider us in 07 based on merits.

Mr. Spinello requested a meeting with DHS and suggested that anyone with influence needs to working on continuation funding.

Senator Nolan stated that he attended a terrorism and transportation conference and that surprisingly Clark County had been left out. He suggested that politics were involved. He also suggested that for next year NV should develop a strategy and have a coordinated effort.

Mr. Welch stated that he will be attending a meeting on 3-20-06 and needs a white paper fact sheet that he can give to congressional representatives.

6. OVERVIEW AND UPDATE FROM THE NEVADA HEALTH DIVISION

Heidi Sakelarios, Health Program Manager, Public Health Preparedness, Nevada State Health Division, provided a brief overview:

- Funding is from multiple sources: 9 million from CDC Grant, and 3 million from HRSA
- HRSA – terrorism exercises respond to bio-terrorism, surge, emergency medical, and emergency medical service. Volunteers will be utilized for trauma, and burn care.
- CDC Grant – integrates public health agencies deals with prevention, reporting in support of the National Response System.
- 6 Activities currently working on:
 1. Public health preparedness summits
 2. Volunteer recruitment.
 3. Public education and outreach
 4. Exercise Development
 5. Special Populations – children and seniors
 6. Statewide conference
- Statewide Conference – August 06
- Funded Activities: All Hazard Planning – pandemic flu; epidemiology/surveillance; lab testing; emergency response; emergency public information – pre-generating messages; medical public health surge – ongoing statewide recruitment; Econ. & Comm. Recovery – public health response plan; improve – ongoing.
- Future: Federal Funding – 15% decrease in each agency. There is a shift towards utilization of existing equipment – infrastructure maintenance.

Dr. Carrison stated that he was pleased to see special needs for children and seniors and stated that epidemiology is very important due to an increase in tourism/terrorism. He also stated that surge capacity is a difficult problem due to the mentally ill, and that in Clark County, surge capacity is virtually non-existent.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Myler stated that he had completed a Public Health law course in January and would be providing a report about it at the next meeting.

Dr. Carrison stated that he was pleased to see that the state worked together for the good of the state in regards to submitting the investment justifications.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Carrison motioned for adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 10:17 am.

Meeting notes completed by Denise Parsons, for questions call (702) 486-0798 or email deniseparsons@state.nv.us